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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/718,105	11/19/2003	Grayson Morris	ACS 64865 (4144P)	9892	
24201	7590	12/27/2005	EXAMINER		
FULWIDER PATTON				GHERBI, SUZETTE JAIME J	
6060 CENTER DRIVE				ART UNIT	
10TH FLOOR				PAPER NUMBER	
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045				3738	

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/718,105	MORRIS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Suzette J. Gherbi	3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 43 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12, 14-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. . . . Applicant's amendment dated 14 October 2005 has been received in application serial number 10/718,105. All comments have been taken into consideration.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 11-12, 14-17, 24, 27-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cheng et al. 2004/0044400. Cheng et al. discloses the invention as claimed comprising: a cylindrical body having a plurality of rings (71, 73, 75) aligned along a common longitudinal axis (see figure 8); each ring having a compressed and expanded delivery state; the cylindrical body having a proximal section; a distal section and a central section (73); and at least one first peak of a central section ring being connected to at least one first peak of a proximal section ring by at least one link wherein the connected first peaks point toward each other and at least one first peak in

every ring is not connected to any first peak in an adjacent ring (the central section includes all of section 73 including 72, 78, and 79 and not *only* 72). It is inherent that (77, 79) are links as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary c) a single connecting element; wherein the stent is formed from NiTi [0018]; wherein drugs can be incorporated[ 0081]. The “openings” as claimed are formed when each ring’s the out of phase peaks meet (see attached mark-up copy).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 7-10, 18-23, 25-26, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. in view of Stiger 2003/0204244. Cheng et al. has been disclosed above however Cheng’s link (77, 79, 89, 99) in figures 8-10 with out of phase attachments are not linear, curved or those combinations. However Cheng et al. does disclose in other various embodiments links that are straight, curved or partially straight and curved (see 17, 15) and Stiger teaches straight links/bridges 206A that connect a first peak to a second peak. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the links (77, 79, 89 and 99) and change them to be straight or curved because Cheng states in section [0058] that the

number and location of the links can be varied in order to vary the desired longitudinal and flexibility of the stent and is deemed a design modification. It is also obvious to modify the number of peaks in each section in order vary the axial stiffness of the device.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. Claim 43 is allowed.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments filed 14 October 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has amended the claims and contends that Chen et al. does not anticipate the claims as currently amended specifically that "*..every peak in the central section 2=73 is connected to an adjacent peak...*". The examiner disagrees and believes as the claims are currently written the rejection is proper. Cheng's central section 73 includes 3 sets of rings. Therefore noting the direction of element 78 at least

one first peak in every ring. is not connected to any first peak in an adjacent ring ( the first ring in section 75).

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

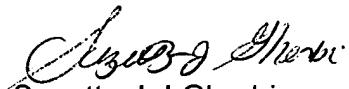
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzette J. Jackson whose work schedule is Monday-Friday 9-6:30 off every other Friday and whose telephone number is 571-272-4751.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

  
Suzette J-J Gherbi  
22 December 2005